

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 CG-00 OFA-01

DLOS-05 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /060 W

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R 031501Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6041

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1196

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA, EWWT

SUBJ: LONGSHOREMEN STRIKE IN QUEBEC

1. FOLLOWING BREAK-DOWN IN CONCILIATION EFFORTS
SOME 1,400 ST. LAWRENCE RIVER LONGSHOREMEN BEGAN
WORK STOPPAGE AT MONTREAL ON MARCH 29. THEY WERE JOINED
IN LEGAL STRIKE BY ANOTHER 800 LONGSHOREMEN AT QUEBEC
CITY AND TROIS-RIVIERES ON MARCH 31. FEDERAL LABOR
DEPT HAS APPOINTED MEDIATOR BUT SPOKESMEN FOR
INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION (ILA) AND
MARITIME EMPLOYER'S ASSOCIATION (MEA) PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED
THAT PARTIES ARE FAR APART.

2. PRIMARY ISSUE IN DISPUTE IS JOB SECURITY. CONCILIATION
REPORT RECOMMEND 40-HOUR WEEK FOR 40 WEEKS PER ANNUM
IN MONTREAL, 35 WEEKS IN QUEBEC CITY AND 30 WEEKS IN
TROIS-RIVIERES. ILA IS DEMANDING A GUARANTEED ANNUAL
WAGE BASED ON 2,080 HOURS OF WORK EQUIVALENT TO AN
EIGHT-HOUR DAY, FIVE-DAY WEEK FOR 52 WEEKS. ON WAGES,
MEA AND ILA ARE REPORTEDLY PREPARED TO ACCEPT CONCILIATION
PROPOSAL AMOUNTING TO NEARLY 60 PERCENT INCREASE OVER
THREE YEARS, RAISING C DOLS 5.10 HOURLY BASE RATE TO
C DOLS 8.00.

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3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS STRIKE EFFECT ON HARBOR
ACTIVITIES NOT YET SERIOUS. SOME SHIPS BEING DIVERTED
TO OTHER PORTS. HOWEVER, LENGTHY STRIKE WOULD HAVE
MORE SERIOUS IMPACT AND COULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO BACK-
TO-WORK LEGISLATION AS WAS ENACTED ONLY FEW DAYS AGO
IN WEST COAST LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE.
PORTER

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